

the preventive care management portion of the bill. There is disease management capacity in the bill, and it requires preventive care in Medicare. So, in my opinion, Medicare must address the diseases that proportionately affect minority populations.

We have to address a population who has been told that their life expectancy is 15 years lower than that of their white counterparts. African American men have a 34 percent greater chance of being diagnosed with prostate cancer and a 123 percent greater chance of dying from prostate cancer than white men.

African Americans' overall cancer rate is 33 percent higher than for whites overall. The incidence of this disease among African American men is among the highest in the world. From 1973 to 1992, the rates of death from prostate cancer among African American men increased by 41 percent. Blacks are more likely to get cancer and to die from this dreaded disease than other racial or ethnic groups.

It should not be difficult to understand my insistence at this opportune time in the Committee on Energy and Commerce that we address this particular matter. It is my hope that seniors will become educated about what they can do to lower their risk for cancer.

Medicare should serve as an educational vehicle. Seniors will learn how to eliminate stress, how to eat properly, and how to incorporate exercise in their lives. They must learn how they can lower their own risk and improve health care through their own behavior.

My amendment also addresses preventive care for hypertension. Hypertension, Mr. Speaker, is a leading cause of stroke. I am sure that we all know people, loved ones, who live dramatically different lives following a massive stroke. I am sure that we know people who have lost their lives prematurely following a massive stroke.

Whether the stroke impedes speech, or it requires that an amputation must take place, or just general paralysis is the prognosis, we must do what we can to curb the indicators for stroke.

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Preventative care and hypertension is so critical to minorities in the Medicare population. In 2001, 2,500 African Americans died from stroke, the third leading cause of death for all racial and ethnic groups. African Americans were 40 percent more likely to die of strokes than whites in 2001, when differences in age distribution were taken into account.

Mr. Speaker, the prevalence of high blood pressure in African Americans is among the highest in the world. That is why my amendment is so critical to ensure the longevity of African American lives.

The final component of my amendment addresses the overarching impediment to good health, and that is

obesity. Obesity is a trigger for both hypertension and cancer. We would be remiss not to address cancer and hypertension and neglect to draw the connection to a healthy diet and exercise. Therefore, we must examine the how and the why obesity is a trend in minority communities and among many minority populations.

I can answer the how and the why partially from my own experience. As I drive around my own communities in my own district, I see a scarcity, Mr. Speaker, of places that have grocery stores that have fresh fruits and vegetables. In my community, in my district, there is an abundance of fast food restaurants, and the proliferation of these establishments and the lack of healthy food choices spell disaster for a healthy population and for healthy relationships with food and exercise.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is a serious Medicare program must provide a comprehensive preventative care program. This care must be multi-layered. It must address all diseases and, in the case of my amendment, must address diseases that are disproportionately killing people of color.

My amendment would ensure that diseases that disproportionately affect the African American community will be highlighted in the disease management component of the Medicare modernization bill.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, acting chairman;

Mr. WOLF of Virginia;

Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania;

Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama;

Mrs. NORTHUP of Kentucky;

Mr. CARDIN of Maryland;

Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York;

And Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2003, AT PAGE H5407

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. TAUZIN). H.R. 2473. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary program for prescription drug coverage under the Medicare Program, to modernize the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; which was referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LOFGREN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCCREY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. BIGGERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, June 25.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on June 17, 2003 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1625. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1114 Main Avenue in Clifton, New Jersey, as the "Robert P. Hammer Post Office Building".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 19, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2723. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Methoprene, Watermelon Mosaic Virus-2 Coat Protein, and Zucchini Yellow Mosaic Virus Coat Protein; Final Tolerance Actions [OPP-2003-0159; FRL-7309-5] received June 3, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2724. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Glyphosate; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0155; FRL-7308-8] received